

# Minutes

## Provincial Executive Meeting

### Monday, December 7, 2009

*UNOFFICIAL until approved by the Provincial Executive.*

December 7, 2009

### *Leadership, advocacy and service for Manitoba's public school boards*

191 Provencher Boulevard, Winnipeg, Manitoba

PRESENT: Hugh Coburn                      President  
Robert Rivard                      Vice-President  
Jacquie Field                      Vice-President  
Yolande Dupuis                      Past President  
Floyd Martens                      Director Region #1  
Cheryl Zelenitsky                      Director Region #3  
Marion Pearson                      Director Region #4  
Tom Parker                      Director Region #5  
Bruce Alexander                      Director Region #5  
Cindy Gilroy-Price                      Director Region #6

Carolyn Duhamel                      Executive Director  
Heather Demetriooff                      Associate Director  
George Coupland                      Director, Labour Relations  
Barb Unrau                      Executive Assistant

REGRETS: Hugh Greaves                      Director Region #2

#### 1.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Add: 6.0 (2.)Property Tax Deferral for Cottage Owners.

Dupuis/Rivard:

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

Carried

#### 1.2 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Alexander/Pearson:

THAT the minutes of the Provincial Executive meeting held November 2, 2009, be approved as circulated

Carried

## **2.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### 1. Aboriginal Education Committee

The Executive Director reported that Rockford McKay from St. James-Assiniboia S.D. and Joan Clement from Park West S.D. have indicated their willingness to sit on the MSBA Aboriginal Education Committee. We are still awaiting response from one other trustee at large and once confirmed will convene a first meeting of this committee in early January.

### 2. Education Week

Executive Officers and Senior Staff will be meeting later this week with representatives from Manitoba Education and MTS to talk about a common theme for Education Week 2010. MASBO and MAPC have also been invited to provide suggestions for a theme. This topic will be raised with MASS representatives at the liaison meeting scheduled for December 11.

Executive members were invited to e-mail any theme ideas to the Executive Director or Executive Assistant.

## **3.0 DELEGATIONS**

### (a) 9:15 a.m. Jackie Avent, Program Coordinator, Active and Safe Routes to School

Vice-President Jacquie Field introduced Jackie Avent to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the program.

Ms Avent thanked the Executive for the opportunity to talk about the Active and Safe Routes to School. She commented on the involvement of Resource Conservation Manitoba and shared some background and details around the development and implementation of the Active and Safe Routes to School program.

Her power-point presentation highlighted program Benefits; Statistics, History; Current Situation; School Travel Planning; Pilot Project (3 urban schools) and proposed expansion into rural Manitoba. She then asked Executive members how they thought school boards might be able to support this project.

Executive members asked:

- if MSBA could receive an e-mail copy of her power point presentation on this project
- who sits on the provincial working committee
- if she had met with MAPC, MASS or AMM or any inner city community groups
- if she had an opportunity to talk about a partnership with Healthy Child Manitoba

The Vice-President thanked Ms Avent for her presentation.

At this point the Executive resumed the order of the agenda.

- (b) 1:15 p.m. Brian Hatherly, Physical Education and Health Consultant, re a Snap Shot of the Youth Health Survey from Manitoba Schools.

The President welcomed Dr. Jane Griffith from Cancer Care Manitoba and Mr. Brian Hatherly from Manitoba Education to the meeting and conducted introductions.

Dr. Griffith provided background information on the purpose of the survey and the partnership between local schools and school boards, Cancer Care Manitoba, Manitoba Education and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authorities. She then shared detailed results around the Grade 6-12 Youth Health Survey. She explained that these results are not yet public but that participating schools and school boards would have access to the data upon request from government.

The President thanked Dr. Griffith and called upon Brian Hatherly to comment on the mandatory physical education and health curriculum.

Mr. Hatherly provided an overview of the data collected to date on the new physical education/health curriculum. He invited Executive members to share any ideas they might have on how the program could be enhanced.

The President thanked both Dr. Griffith and Mr. Hatherly for their presentations and for the work they are doing on behalf of students.

The Executive resumed the order of the agenda.

#### **4.0 FOR ACTION/DECISION**

1. Budget approval 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

The Executive Director reviewed the current and proposed budgets line by line. She highlighted areas of over-expenditure and areas of potential surplus. After reviewing the revenue and expenditure summaries, the membership fee increase required to balance the 2010-2011 budget would be 4.5%

Executive members had a lengthy discussion around distribution of the internally restricted net assets to reduce the membership fee requirements. It was also noted that that negotiation fee of \$1,500 per contract has not increased in 20 years.

**Dupuis/Parker:**

**THAT the internally restricted net assets be assigned to cover costs related to:**

- **web re-design**
- **school board elections 2010**
- **expansion of the School Boards Work initiative and**
- **Education Week Campaign 2010.**

**Carried**

**Field/Rivard:**

**THAT the 2010-2011 budget be adjusted by including a \$500 increase in negotiations fees, a reduction of \$10,000 in the community relations budget line, and a \$5,000 reduction in the printing and publications line; and that the revised budget be distributed to Executive members for information.**

**Carried**

The President will share the details around the proposed budget at regional meetings.

2. Approval of Presidents' Council Award criteria.

The Presidents' Council met on November 10th and amended the criteria in an attempt to elicit a wider range of nominees.

**Gilroy-Price/Zelenitsky:**

**THAT the revised criteria for the Manitoba School Boards Association Presidents' Council Award be approved.**

**Carried**

3. January Regional Meeting Agenda.

The Executive Director requested feedback from Executive members on topics for discussion in the afternoon session of regional meetings. Suggestions included:

- update on nominations for various MSBA awards
- CSBA update in Region 3
- continuation of discussion on the Lighthouse Project in Region 1
- taxing authority
  - solicit feedback from boards on their discussion with their municipalities/communities
  - prepare a Facts and Myths sheet around taxation
- communication regarding the value of school boards

The Executive requested a written report on CSBA for inclusion in all regional meeting agenda packages.

4. Executive Resolutions:
  - (a) eligibility requirements to vote in trustee elections

Administration will check the legislation in this regard and report back to Executive members.

At this point, the Executive received the 1:15 p.m. delegation.  
The Executive resumed the order of the agenda at 2:15 p.m.

(b) school closure guidelines

The Executive Director reported that Rolling River S.D. had submitted a resolution on school closure guidelines and asked if Executive members might want to consider co-sponsoring this resolution. A discussion followed on various aspects of the school closure guidelines including use of school buildings and it was suggested that MSBA have a statement of principle on this matter as it relates to access, quality and choice.

Administration will draft a resolution on this matter and circulate it to Executive for consideration prior to distribution at regional meetings in January.

5. Report on Joint Staff Compensation Committee. (IN CAMERA)

This item was deferred to the end of the meeting.

6. November 19, 2009 invitation from MTS to participate on the planning committee for the *Encompassing Kids* conference, April 20th and 21st, 2011.

Vice-President Jacquie Field represented MSBA at a first meeting of the MTS *Encompassing Kids Conference* planning committee. She gave a brief overview of the program and indicated her willingness to continue to represent MSBA on this committee.

**Dupuis/Parker**

**THAT Jacquie Field represent MSBA on the MTS  
Encompassing Kids Planning Conference.**

**Carried**

7. Amendment to Executive Manual, re Committee and Conference Expenses.

The Executive Director noted that the Executive Procedural Manual should be amended to include the policy passed at the last Executive meeting regarding payment of Manitoba CSBA Director expenses. She also proposed an addition to this section related to pre-payment of expenses as recommended by the auditors.

**Rivard/Gilroy-Price:**

**THAT the amendments to Section F - Trustee Remuneration  
and Expenses be approved.**

**Carried**

**5.0 FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Increased cost for AFM programs in schools.

Concerns related to increased cost for AFM programs were raised by Region 1. The Executive Director noted that Kelsey S.D. had submitted a resolution in this regard.

Administration will explore the impact of these increases across the province. Once the data is received, the Executive will consider co-sponsoring the Kelsey School Division resolution or developing a new resolution in this regard.

## **6.0 EMERGENT ISSUES**

1. Social Planning Council Poverty Report Card 2009.
  - to view the full report go to: [www.spcw.mb.ca](http://www.spcw.mb.ca), click on Reports in left margin - 20 Years Lost: The Poverty Generation 2009

The Executive Director commented on her attendance at the release of the Social Planning Council Poverty Report Card. The Province is intending to hold public consultations on poverty reduction strategies and she will advise Executive members of the dates and locations of these consultations once they are announced.

The Executive Director further noted that Mr. Lloyd Axworthy, President of the University of Winnipeg who was the seconder of the original 1989 resolution to abolish child poverty by the year 2000, provided an interesting overview of the report card release. Mr. Axworthy has agreed to be a keynote speaker at convention on the issues of poverty and poverty reduction.

2. Property Tax Deferral for Cottage Owners.

The Executive Director reported that this Bill had just been introduced. Provisions of the Bill include

- a new tax deferral program for cottage owners,
- increasing the Education Property Tax Credit to \$650 in this year's budget, and
- increasing the Farmland School Tax Rebate to 75%.

Administration will keep Executive apprised of any feedback MSBA receives on this Bill.

## **8.0 EXECUTIVE/STAFF REPORTS & MATTERS ARISING**

1. President

Further to his written report, the President highlighted

- MSBA's initial meeting with the new Minister of Education, and
- his attendance at the Saskatchewan School Boards Association AGM.

He invited the Executive Director to comment on the meeting with City Councillor Gord Steeves around taxation.

It was suggested that the Region 5 & 6 Networking group arrange to meet with the Mr. Steeves.

2. Vice-President(s)

Vice-President Jacquie Field gave a brief verbal report on her attendance at the Arts Education Committee meeting and the MTS Conference Planning committee meeting.

Further to his written report, Vice-President Robert Rivard commented on

- the first meeting of the ad hoc committee on taxation,
- the liaison meeting with MASBO, and
- his attendance at the Inclusive Education Advisory Committee.

He noted that the mandate of the Inclusive Education Advisory Committee is changing and indicated that the Committee will be seeking organizational perspectives on a number of issues in the coming months.

MSBA will follow up in this regard as various topics come before the Committee.

3. Past President

In addition to her written report, Past President Yolande Dupuis commented briefly on her interview for the MASS DVD on The Value of Public Education (in both languages).

4. Directors

(a) Region 5

Further to his written report, Region 5 Director Bruce Alexander commented on

- the meeting of the ad hoc committee on taxation,
- the Region 5 & 6 Networking meeting; and
- discussions at the Manitoba Safe Schools meeting around Aboriginal Education.

Region 5 Director Tom Parker also commented on the Region 5 & 6 networking meeting. He also spoke about the concerns raised about workload indicators by administrators in attendance at the meeting. The Executive Director and Director of Labour Relations will investigate this matter and report back to Executive.

5. Executive Director

In addition to her written report, the Executive Director noted that future funding of the MERN Journal will need to be added to an Executive agenda for consideration.

6. Associate Director

Nothing further to add to her written report.

## 8.1 INFORMATION REPORTS

### (a) Correspondence

Sent via e-mail November 27, 2009

1. November 23, 2009 copy of Louis Riel SD letter to the Minister, re Copyright tariff rates

### (b) Committee Minutes

Sent via e-mail November 27, 2009

1. September 29, 2009 Technical Vocational Education Advisory Committee meeting

Sent via e-mail December 4, 2009

1. Social Planning Council Campaign 2000 Continues Steering Committee, October 9, 2009.

### (c) Publications

1. Manitoba Human Rights Commission, MHR Connections, October, 2009 and November, 2009
2. Education Manitoba, October, 2009.
3. National Child Day package.
4. MASS Journal Fall 2009.

## 9.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

### NOTE CHANGES:

- Sunday, January 17, 2010, Elkhorn Resort and Conference Centre
  - Review documents around the ED and Ex evaluation
- Sunday, February 7th and Monday, February 8th (day and a half)

**Zelenitsky/Rivard:**

**THAT the Executive move in-camera at 4:00 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.**

**Carried**

**Rivard/Zelenitsky:**

**THAT the Executive move out of camera at 4:35 p.m.**

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

/bu